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APPLICANT: Jan F.A. SMITS)
SERIAL NO: 09/787,171) Group Art Unit: 3764
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TITLE: HALLUX VALGUS BRACE

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AMENDED CLAIMS

B, 1. (currently amended) A hallux valgus brace comprising a three point lever means for correcting the position of the big toe, wherein the complete brace including the three point lever means is designed to be located distally of the metatarsal joint, wherein the three points of the lever means are sized and configured such that one point is located on the medial side of the first phalanx of the big toe, one point is located on the lateral side of the distal end of the big toe, and one point is located the brace comprising a frame, sized and configured to be located substantially under the toes and at a first end providing a first point on the medial side of the first phalanx of the big toe, at a location between the big toe and the second toe providing a second point on the lateral side of the distal end of the big toe, and at a second end providing a third point on the ball of the foot.

2. (original) A brace according to claim 1, wherein the brace comprises a proximal pad pressing on the first phalanx of the big toe, a distal pad pressing on the distal end of the big toe, and a lever arm pressing on the ball of the foot.

3. (original) A brace according to claim 2, wherein the distal pad is adapted to press on the distal end of the first phalanx of the big toe.

4. (original) A brace according to claim 2 or 3, wherein the distal pad is disposed on an adjustable arm.

5. (previously presented) A brace according to claim 4, wherein the adjustable arm is secured to a sleeve which is slidable.

6. (previously presented) A brace according to any one of claims 1, 2 or 3, wherein the brace is manufactured from steel wire and steel pads.

7. (previously presented) A brace according to any one of claims 2 or 3, wherein the lever arm is provided with a silicone tube.

8. (previously presented) A brace according to any one of claims 1, 2 or 3, wherein a strap is provided for fitting around the third toe.

9. (previously presented) A brace according to claim 8, wherein the strap is made of rubber or plastic or a hook and loop connection.

10. (currently amended) A brace according to any one of ~~claims 1, 2 or 3~~ claims 2 or 3 wherein the distal pad carries a strap to be located around the big toe.